

Environment Committee Testimony for Monday 3/17/14

Dear Environment Committee Members,

Please support SB443, AN ACT CONCERNING PESTICIDES ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS, ATHLETIC FIELDS AND MUNICIPAL GREENS.

There are well known and documented risks from exposure to toxic lawn pesticides, yet we permit our children to be exposed to them daily by continuing to use them on athletic fields, parks, and playgrounds.

Numerous studies continue to link 30 commonly used lawn pesticides with:

- cancer**
- birth defects**
- reproductive issues**
- neurotoxicity or abnormal brain development**
- hyperactivity**
- developmental delays**
- behavioral disorders**
- motor dysfunction**

A study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* finds that household and garden pesticide use can increase the risk of childhood leukemia as much as seven-fold.

There are SAFE, and EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES. Branford and Cheshire have pledged to protect the children in their towns and have been successfully maintained beautiful fields organically for years without the use of chemicals.

Be a hero and protect the health of ALL Connecticut children by supporting this important bill.

Thank you for putting our children first!

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